

NITROSAMINES IN METALWORKING FLUIDS

Enclosed is a copy of a Chemical Advisory warning of potential adverse health effects from exposure to metalworking fluids. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requests your assistance in disseminating the message.

The Agency is concerned about potential cancer risks to machinists from exposure to nitrosamines in metalworking fluids. We are particularly concerned about the risks posed by N-nitrosodiethanolamine (NDELA), a nitrosamine formed in metalworking fluids which contain nitrites in combination with secondary and tertiary amines. Recent data indicate that NDELA can induce carcinogenic effects in laboratory animals even when administered at low doses.

Because of this concern, EPA has recently initiated a regulatory investigation of nitrosamine formation in metalworking fluids under section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). As an interim measure, we have prepared Chemical Advisories to alert formulators and workers of the hazard and to inform them of measures that they might take to reduce exposure.

Enclosed are the two versions. One is directed to formulators, and the other to workers. We would suggest that you disseminate the versions for workers to people within your organization who could be exposed. You are free to copy its contents, duplicate the Advisory, or request multiple copies.

If you would like additional copies of the Advisories or more information on this subject, please contact any EPA regional office, call the toll-free number, or write to the TSCA Assistance Office.

TSCA Assistance Office (TS-799)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.